



NEWS RELEASE  
*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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January 5, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg, the United States Post Office, Postal Inspection Service, and the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

Today, the Honorable Richard G. Kopf sentenced Leonardo Castro, 39 years old, to an 18 month prison term followed by three years of supervised release following Castro's conviction for fraud relating to the use of identification documents. In addition to the prison term, Castro was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,000 and a \$100 special assessment.

Castro, a resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan and native of the Dominican Republic, was charged with fraudulent use of identification documents as part of a federal investigation into the selling of birth certificates and social security cards in the Crete, Nebraska, area. The investigation by federal authorities led them to a post office box in Michigan which belonged to Castro. Federal authorities were able to purchase identification documents from Castro and mail the sale proceeds to Castro. In all, law enforcement officials were able to retrieve over 100 identification documents during the course of the investigation.

**Name of Defendant:** Leonardo Castro

**AKA:**

**Age:** 39

**City of residence:** Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): 18 U.S.C. Section 1028(b)(1)(D), fraud relating to identification documents. Penalties are up to 15 years in prison, up to a \$250,000 fine, or both, up to 3 years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Crete, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** \$1,000

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** March 17, 2009

**Federal Arrest Date:** May 27, 2009

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** May 21, 2009

**Initial Appearance Date:** June 25, 2009

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** October 20, 2009

**Sentencing Date:** January 5, 2010

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:**

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:**

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** Held without bond

**In Continuous Custody Since:** June 8, 2009

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Richard G. Kopf

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** SAR